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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-EXAMINING
GROUP** 2878

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of :
Takashi NIWA et al. :
Serial No. 09/740,664 : Group Art Unit: 2878
Filed: December 19, 2000 :
For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE : Examiner - Thanh X. Luu
HAVING CANTILEVER AND :
PROBE FORMED OF TRANS- :
PARENT MATERIAL, METHOD :
FOR MANUFACTURING NEAR- :
FIELD OPTICAL PROBE, AND :
OPTICAL APPARATUS HAVING :
NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL :
PROBE (As Amended) : Docket No. S004-4168

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MS AF
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL
UNDER RULE 116**

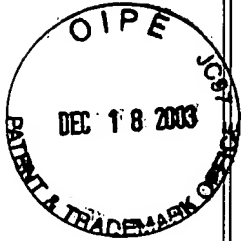
S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2003, applicants amend their application as follows:

ADDITIONAL FEES:

No additional fees are believed required in connection with this amendment after final; however, should it be determined that a fee is due, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee to our Deposit Account No. 01-0268.

**MAILING CERTIFICATE ON
LAST PAGE**



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